

Message Text

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P 282227Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3717
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 15078

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, PEPR, UR, US, XE
SUBJECT: SOVIET MFA OFFICIAL DISCUSSES ASIAN SITUATION

SUMMARY: DEP. CHIEF OF MFA FIRST FAR EASTERN DEPT.
EXPRESSES SERIOUS CONCERN OVER "DANGEROUS" SITUATION
IN S.E. ASIA (BUT STATES THAT MOSCOW HAS NO INTENTION
OF INTERVENING MILITARILY) AND WARNS U.S. ON "CHINA
CARD." END SUMMARY.

1. ON JUNE 22, VISITING USLO PEKING OFFICER, DEPT.
OFFICER, AND EMBOFF CALLED ON G. V. KIREYEV, DEP.
CHIEF, FIRST FAR EASTERN DEPT., MFA. IN A FRANK,
BUT GENERAL, CONVERSATION KIREYEV MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:
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-- SOUTH EAST ASIA. THE BASIC PROBLEM IN THE REGION
IS CHINESE EXPANSIONISM. THE SENKAKU ISLAND INCIDENT
WAS A WARNING TO VIETNAM AND TO OTHER COUNTRIES OF
S.E. ASIA THAT THE CHINESE HAD HISTORIC CLAIMS TO
THESE OFFSHORE TERRITORIES AND INTENDED TO PURSUE THEM.
PRC PRESSURE ON VIETNAM, BOTH DIRECT (E.G., THE

FUSS OVER THE CHINESE POPULATION OF VIETNAM AND THE CANCELLATION OF THE CHINESE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM) AND INDIRECT (E.G., PRC SUPPORT AND INSTIGATION OF CAMBODIAN MILITARY ACTIVITY DIRECTED AGAINST VIETNAM) IS OF COURSE CAUSED BY CHINA'S FRUSTRATION OVER THE CONTINUED EVIDENCE OF STRONG TIES OF SOVIET-VIETNAMESE FRIENDSHIP. THE RESULTANT REGIONAL SITUATION IS AN EXTREMELY DANGEROUS ONE. HOWEVER, THE SOVIET UNION HAS NO INTENTION OF ITSELF INTERVENING MILITARILY IN S.E. ASIA OR OF FILLING THE VACANCY LEFT BY THE CHINESE PULL OUT FROM THEIR PROGRAM OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO VIETNAM. NOR CAN THE RECENT USSURI RIVER INCIDENT BE INTERPRETED AS A SOVIET SIGNAL TO THE CHINESE TO BE CAUTIOUS WITH REGARD TO VIETNAM. MOSCOW MADE IMMEDIATE APOLOGIES TO THE PRC FOR THIS INCIDENT WHICH WAS SIMPLY "ACCIDENTAL."

-- OVERSEAS CHINESE. THE PROBLEM OF PRC SUBVERSIVE USE OF THE OVERSEAS CHINESE IS NOT NEW (E.G., INDONESIA 1965), BUT IS PARTICULARLY BLATANT IN THE PRESENT CASE OF VIETNAM. LIKE THE SENKAKU ISLAND INCIDENT, THIS IS ALSO A SIGNAL TO THE REST OF S.E. ASIA. VIETNAM IS ATTEMPTING TO DEFUSE THE SITUATION IN VARIOUS WAYS, FOR EXAMPLE, BY OPENING A THIRD POST FOR EMBARKATION OF CHINESE WHO DESIRE TO RETURN TO CONFIDENTIAL

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CHINA.

-- U.S. CHINA POLICY. THE U.S. SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT THE SOVIET UNION CANNOT IDLY STAND BY WHILE A BLOC INCLUDING THE CHINESE AND DIRECTED AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION IS BEING FORMED. THE U.S. CAN PLAY ITS CHINA CARD, BUT THE SOVIET UNION CAN BE EXPECTED, IN THAT CASE, TO MAKE "COUNTER MOVES" OF ITS OWN.

-- JAPAN-PRC PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP TREATY. RELATED TO SOVIET CONCERN OVER AN EXPANSION OF PRC FOREIGN POLICY ACTIVITY DIRECTED AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION IS SOVIET CONCERN OVER THE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF AN ANTI-HEGEMONY CLAUSE IN A JAPANESE-PRC PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP TREATY. THE RECENT SOVIET STATEMENT TO THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT ON THIS SUBJECT WAS STRONG AND WAS INTENDED AS A REMINDER TO THE JAPANESE THAT OVERALL JAPANESE INTERESTS REQUIRED THAT SOVIET VIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. MOSCOW IS NOT OPPOSED TO AN IMPROVEMENT OF SINO-JAPANESE RELATIONS, BUT IT IS OPPOSED TO THE DEVELOP-

MENT OF A SINO-JAPANESE BLOC DIRECTED AGAINST THE
SOVIET UNION AND IT SEES THE ADOPTION OF A PEACE
AND FRIENDSHIP TREATY WITH AN ANTI-HEGEMONY CLAUSE
AS A BIG STEP IN THAT DIRECTION.

-- SINO-SOVIET BORDER TALKS. IL'ICHEV IS BACK IN
PEKING AFTER THE TRADITIONAL TOUR OF CHINA (HARBIN,
SHENYANG, AND THE TA CHING OIL FIELDS). ONE COULD
NOT SAY THAT THERE WAS AN EARLY ADJOURNMENT OF THE
TALKS OR THAT THERE WAS ANY PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE

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IN THE DEPARTING COMMENTS MADE BY IL'ICHEV, WHICH
WERE ALSO TRADITIONAL.

2. COMMENT: BY THE EMPHASIS OF HIS REMARKS, KIREYEV
SEEMED TO WANT TO CONVEY THE MESSAGE THAT:

-- THE SOVIET UNION WAS GREATLY CONCERNED OVER THE
INCREASE IN TENSION IN S.E. ASIA - ESPECIALLY
WITH REGARD TO VIETNAM - BUT FELT THAT VIETNAM
WAS STRONG ENOUGH BOTH ECONOMICALLY AND POLITICALLY
TO STAND UP TO CHINESE AND CHINESE-INSPIRED PRESSURE;

-- THE SOVIET UNION MIGHT TAKE SOME (UNSPECIFIED)
ACTION TO COUNTER SERIOUS U.S. ATTEMPTS TO USE
AN IMPROVEMENT IN U.S.-PRC RELATIONS AS A LEVER
OVER THE SOVIET UNION.
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3. BY HIS OWN QUESTIONS, KIREYEV EXPRESSED CON-
SIDERABLE INTEREST IN U.S. INTENTIONS TO
NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH PEKING. HE WAS PARTICULARLY
INTERESTED TO KNOW HOW WHE U.S. AND THE PRC PLANNED
TO SOLVE THE LAST ONE OF THE THREE U.S. "CONDITIONS"
FOR A NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS, I.E., THE PROBLEM
OF TAIWAN. TOON

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